

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of providing personalized search capabilities of hypertext transmission protocol pages, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing an index server maintaining [an] a permanent but dynamic index to hypertext transmission protocol pages and employing a hierarchical plurality of topic categories whose contents are maintained and updated by the index server;

b) permitting a user to specify any subset of the plurality of topic categories;
and

c) adding to a hypertext transmission protocol page controlled by the user link information permitting execution of searches of the index server in any category of the subset but only of categories in the subset.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the steps of permitting the user to propose addition of a hypertext transmission protocol page to the index server in conjunction with one or more categories of the subset and automatically adding the proposed page to the index server wherein the user can search the proposed page via the link information and wherein initially other users will not search the proposed page even if searching the proposed one or more categories.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the automatically adding step comprises the steps of verifying that a uniform resource locator address for the proposed page is valid and that the proposed page is not already indexed under the proposed one or more categories.

4. (original) The method of claim 2 additionally comprising the step of subsequently allowing other users to search the proposed page when searching one or more of the proposed one or more categories.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of allowing the user to rename one or more categories of the subset as it will appear on the hypertext transmission protocol page controlled by the user.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of allowing the user to rearrange hierarchicalization of one or more categories of the subset as it will appear on the hypertext transmission protocol page controlled by the user.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the permitting step comprises permitting the user within a branch of a hierarchy of categories to either include or exclude subcategories in the branch, or both.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein steps b) can be reexecuted by the user at any time, whereby the link information is dynamically updated to correspond to a new subset.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus providing personalized search capabilities of hypertext transmission protocol pages, said apparatus comprising:

an index server maintaining [an] a permanent but dynamic index to hypertext transmission protocol pages and employing a hierarchical plurality of topic categories whose contents are maintained and updated by said index server;

a link permitting a user to specify any subset of said plurality of topic categories;

and

a link adding to a hypertext transmission protocol page controlled by the user link information permitting execution of searches of said index server in any category of said subset but only of categories in said subset.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 additionally comprising a link permitting the user to propose addition of a hypertext transmission protocol page to said index server in conjunction with one or more categories of said subset and automatically adding said proposed page to said index server wherein the user can search said proposed page via said link information and wherein initially other users will not search said proposed page even if searching said proposed one or more categories.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said proposed addition link comprises means for invoking verification that a uniform resource locator address for said proposed page is valid and that said proposed page is not already indexed under said proposed one or more categories.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 10 additionally comprising means for subsequently allowing other users to search the proposed page when searching one or more of the proposed one or more categories.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 additionally comprising a link allowing the user to rename one or more categories of said subset as it will appear on said hypertext transmission protocol page controlled by the user.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 additionally comprising a link allowing the user to rearrange hierarchicalization of one or more categories of said subset as it will appear on said hypertext transmission protocol page controlled by the user.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said permitting link comprises means for invoking means permitting the user within a branch of a hierarchy of categories to either include or exclude subcategories in said branch, or both.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said permitting link can be reexecuted by the user at any time, whereby said link information is dynamically updated to correspond to a new subset.

17. (currently amended) Computer software stored on a computer readable medium providing personalized search capabilities of hypertext transmission protocol pages, said software comprising:

index server code maintaining [an] a permanent but dynamic index to hypertext transmission protocol pages and employing a hierarchical plurality of topic categories whose contents are maintained and updated by said index server code;

link code permitting a user to specify any subset of said plurality of topic categories; and

link code adding to a hypertext transmission protocol page controlled by the user link information permitting execution of searches via said index server code in any category of said subset but only of categories in said subset.

18. (original) The software of claim 17 additionally comprising link code permitting the user to propose addition of a hypertext transmission protocol page to said index server code in conjunction with one or more categories of said subset and automatically adding said proposed page to those indexed by said index server code wherein the user can search said proposed page via said link information and wherein initially other users will not search said proposed page even if searching said proposed one or more categories.

19. (original) The software of claim 18 wherein said proposed addition link comprises code for invoking verification that a uniform resource locator address for said proposed page is valid and that said proposed page is not already indexed under said proposed one or more categories.

20. (original) The software of claim 18 additionally comprising code for subsequently allowing other users to search the proposed page when searching one or more of the proposed one or more categories.

21. (original) The software of claim 17 additionally comprising link code allowing the user to rename one or more categories of said subset as it will appear on said hypertext transmission protocol page controlled by the user.

22. (original) The software of claim 17 additionally comprising link code allowing the user to rearrange hierarchicalization of one or more categories of said subset as it will appear on said hypertext transmission protocol page controlled by the user.

23. (original) The software of claim 17 wherein said permitting link code comprises code for invoking code permitting the user within a branch of a hierarchy of categories to either include or exclude subcategories in said branch, or both.

24. (original) The software of claim 17 wherein said permitting code can be reexecuted by the user at any time, whereby said link information is dynamically updated to correspond to a new subset.